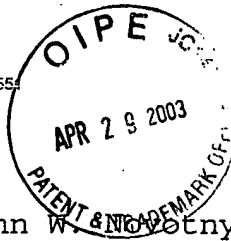


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February 9, 2001

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MAY 08 2003  
GROUP 3600

Mr. Glenn W. Novotny  
President and Chief Operating Officer  
Central Garden & Pet Company  
3697 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Suite 310  
Lafayette, CA 94549

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, RRR

Cert. No. 700 0520 0022 4617 3669

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MAY 05 2003

RE: COLLAPSIBLE PET CARRIER

Inventors: Scott Pivonka, John Tottleben

TECHNOLOGY CENTER #9700

Dear Mr. Novotny:

I represent Messrs. Pivonka and Tottleben, the inventors of the above identified patent application. A copy of the drawings used as part of a U.S. patent application for a collapsible pet carrier have been enclosed as part of this letter. Please note that these drawings are being provided for a very limited purpose, and that is to help your company evaluate our claims. You are hereby notified that these drawings include confidential information that may only be used for this limited purpose.

We have received a notice of allowance, indicating that several broad claims will have been found to be patentable. The application was filed in June of 1999, and we have much earlier records relating to inventorship and diligence towards a reduction to practice.

We understand that your company sells a "Fold-Away Pet Carrier" through its Nylabone division. We have examined an example of this carrier and have found it to be remarkably similar to the pet carrier of Messrs. Pivonka and Tottleben. Therefore, we believe that it may be in your company's best interest to license the above invention from my clients.

We look forward to entering into licensing discussions. Please inform us of your company's position on this matter by February 23, 2001.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ramon L. Pizarro

Enc.